



ICM'S MEAP PROVIDES ITS FIRST-EVER INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION TO RWANDAN SCHOOL

In 2019, Dr. Dariya Mukamusoni, Vice Chancellor of Kibogora Polytechnic in Rwanda applied to ICM's Midwifery Education Accreditation Programme (MEAP) — a process of assessing whether pre-service midwifery education programmes meet ICM's global midwifery education standards. After a rigorous selection process, Kibogora was one of three educational institutions selected by ICM to have their pre-service midwifery programmes assessed through the first-ever undertaking of MEAP.

In November of this year, Kibogora received accreditation for its 'Advanced Diploma in Midwifery' programme, confirming that the school provides consistent midwifery education processes and graduate outcomes that meet ICM's global standards for midwifery education. Kibogora's Advanced Diploma in Midwifery is a three-year direct entry programme that qualifies midwives for registration in Rwanda. Ultimately, this accreditation represents a pathway toward improved midwife-led care for women and newborns.

ICM asked Dr. Mukamusoni and Chris Adrien Kanakuze, Head of the Midwifery Programme at Kibogora Polytechnic, what the MEAP process was like and what this new accreditation will mean for Kibogora's current and future midwifery students.

What was your motivation to apply for ICM's Midwifery Education Accreditation Programme?

Chris: "We were motivated to apply to MEAP to strengthen our programme based on the best-available practices and improve the learning outcomes of our graduates."

What do you want other education centres to know about MEAP?

Dr. Mukamusoni: "MEAP is a learning process and a fantastic tool to empower midwifery schools and their students with life-saving skills. It requires a committed team of both leaders and educators."

Chris: "MEAP was an excellent learning experience that truly helped improve the quality of midwifery we're able to offer by strengthening our programme and providing a benchmark against ICM's global standards. Success within MEAP requires good collaboration and accountability among the team members overseeing its implementation."



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What have been some of the key learnings from the MEAP assessment process?

Chris: "MEAP has helped us to critically analyse our curriculum through a process called 'curriculum mapping' and has enabled us to evaluate our lecturers against ICM standards. Through this process, we've been empowered with the skills to design ways of improving the lessons we provide."

How will this accreditation contribute to improved maternal and newborn health outcomes in Rwanda?

Dr. Mukamusoni: "Being able to offer an internationally accredited midwifery programme is an indicator that the programme meets international standards and that the students in the programme will be able to provide high-quality, midwife-led care. We are very proud of this achievement."

Chris: "This accreditation will contribute to improved maternal and newborn health outcomes in Rwanda by strengthening the pre-service training our institution is able to provide and by building the competencies of our educators to meet ICM's global midwifery education standards."

ICM is extremely proud of Kibogora Polytechnic and its instructors and programme administrators for committing to the MEAP process.

This was a formidable undertaking that involved extensive self-evaluation and an in-country visit and assessment from ICM's MEAP Assessors. All of this hard work has and will contribute to strengthened midwifery education in Rwanda

The below quote from our Chief Executive, Sally Pairman underscores the importance of MEAP and the dedication required by programmes interested in undergoing the process:

"Midwives are proven to be a cost-effective solution to drastically reducing maternal and neonatal death, and we see MEAP as a tool to strengthen pre-service midwifery education and thereby raise the standards and competencies of qualified midwives and improve quality care for women, their newborns and their families The MEAP is a new process for us with exciting potential to unify midwife educators with a shared understanding of international best practices in the field of midwifery education. We look forward to working in partnership with Schools of Midwifery, midwife educators, midwife regulators, Ministries of Health, Ministries of Education and Midwives' Associations to implement quality standardised midwifery education programmes so that every woman and her newborn receives the best-possible care from well-educated, competent midwives"

Thank you to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for funding this round of MEAP. Learn more about MEAP and ICM's other services [here](#) on our website.